

NCDOT Reminds Motorists to Keep Alert for Deer During Fall Months



This pretty girl can be dangerous. NCDOT wants to remind drivers to watch out for deer during the fall months.

As the temperature starts dropping and leaves start falling, another sign of the changing season is more deer along North Carolina roadways and in turn, a greater chance of hitting a deer.

Between 2012 and 2014, nearly half of the 58,372 animal-related crashes in the state took place from October through December. About 90 percent of those involved deer.

A new [N.C. Department of Transportation study](#) shows there were 17,831 animal-related crashes in 2014 - the lowest number since 2006. But over the past three years, animal-related crashes claimed 11 lives, injured 3,386 drivers and passengers and caused nearly \$145 million in damages.

The top five counties with animal-related crashes reported last year in North Carolina include:

1. Wake: 794
2. Pitt: 562
3. Guilford: 550
4. Duplin: 445
5. Randolph: 444

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On this week's N.C. Transportation Now, the department awards a contract for construction of a new temporary bridge on Pea Island, a new connector road has opened in Mooresville to provide better access to industrial areas, and tickets are now available for the Santa Train.

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Major Fayetteville Projects Wrap Up



These barrels along Glensford Drive in Fayetteville are gone now.

NCDOT crews opened the route along Glensford Drive from U.S. 401 Business/Raeford Road to Cliffdale Road to drivers at the end of October.

The nearly \$8.9 million road project began in August 2012 and involved widening and resurfacing 1.4 miles of roadway and widening Glensford Drive to four lanes, installing a grass median and adding three roundabouts at the intersections of Belford, Montclair and Chambersburg roads. In addition to decreasing congestion, the road improvements increase traffic capacity through the area, benefiting nearby schools.

Additionally, drivers can now more easily access the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens and other locations on Interstate 95 Business/U.S.301. Work is almost complete on two bridges over the Cape Fear River and Cross Creek.

Both bridges were 61 years old and considered structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. Although safe, the lanes were narrow, the under-clearances were inadequate and the load-carrying capacity was insufficient, according to current design standards.

A functionally obsolete and structurally deficient bridge is like an old house. It was built years ago based on design standards of the time. Now, it needs updating. This doesn't mean it is unsafe; it means work needs to be done to bring it up to modern standards.

The nearly \$16 million construction began in 2012.

Board Approves Allocation of Additional Funds for Highway and Bridge Maintenance and Preservation

The recently passed state budget will allow NCDOT to make a greater investment in taking care of and improving North Carolina's existing highways and bridges.

The General Assembly appropriated nearly \$500 million in additional funding in the two-year budget (for fiscal years 2016 and 2017) for maintenance and preservation work. NCDOT distributes these funds yearly to the divisions based on need.

The Board of Transportation approved each division's initial funding amount for Fiscal Year 2016 at its August meeting, and approved the additional funding at its October meeting.

Here's what that means for Division Six for Fiscal Year 2016, which runs July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2016:

- An additional \$2.5 million was allocated to improve deficient bridges. This brings the division's total Bridge Program funding to \$5.6 million.
- An additional \$2.9 million was allocated for resurfacing, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$26.1 million.
- An additional \$2.2 million was allocated for highway preservation, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$6.4 million.
- An additional \$2.5 million was allocated for secondary roads, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$17.4 million.

This will allow the division to accelerate work that had been planned for next fiscal year.

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